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University of Edinburgh.



Honorary Doctors of Laws

PRESENTED TO

The Chancellor of the University

BY

JOHN KIRKPATRICK, M.A., LL.B., DR. JUR.,

Professor of History,

Dean of the Faculty of Law,

ON

18TH APRIL 1890.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.



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HONORARY DOCTORS OF LAWS.

SIR BENJAMIN BAKER, K.C.M.G., C.E.,

MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, OF THE BRITISH
ASSOCIATION, &c.

SOME forty years ago, at a very early age, Mr BAKER showed himself "father to the man" by constructing many models of pumps, steam-engines, and other machinery, with no other aid than that afforded by Lardner, and he soon manifested a talent for drawing and the calculation of engineering problems. Thus equipped for professional work, he entered one of the oldest iron-works in South Wales, where he gained valuable experience of the most practical kind in the foundry, blacksmith's shop, and fitting shop. Transferred thence to the drawing-office, he was next engaged in the designing of machinery of all kinds, and he afterwards underwent a further training in surveying, levelling, and the construction of masonry.

Mr BAKER'S distinguished professional career begins with his admission to the office of Mr (now Sir) John Fowler, about thirty years ago, when he abandoned his favourite pursuit of mechanical engineering and began to construct railways, docks, and bridges. His great ability and energy speedily procured him the foremost place in Mr Fowler's office; and as a partner of the firm he has since been intimately associated with all its vast and varied undertakings. Among these, which are too numerous to specify, may be mentioned the novel and extremely difficult task of engineering the Underground Railways of London. Mr BAKER has also been a frequent contributor to scientific periodicals, and his articles on "Long-span Bridges," published in *Engineering* in 1867, have been republished in America, Germany, Austria, and Holland.

To the more recent part of his career belong the ship-railway in Nova Scotia, some difficult bridge-work for the Cape Government, and a tunnel at New York under a broad river 60 feet deep; and he has been consulted about matters so widely divergent as a bridge across the Hudson of 2,800 feet span and the main drainage

of London. He has been employed by the War Office to investigate the causes of the recently discovered imperfections of swords and bayonets, and he is also a member of the Ordnance Committee. But by far the most conspicuous monument of the combined genius of Messrs Fowler and Baker consists in the recently completed Forth Bridge, the enormous dimensions and the daring design of which constitutes it one of the greatest engineering wonders of the world. On the occasion of its inauguration by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Mr BAKER was created a K.C.M.G. in recognition of his public services, and the University of Edinburgh now rejoices to add her academic tribute.

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY CHAPLIN, M.P., &c.,

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

AFTER having completed his education at Harrow and at Christ Church, Oxford, Mr CHAPLIN devoted a good deal of his time and energy to foreign travel. He landed in America in 1861, two days before the great Civil War broke out, and afterwards explored that vast region which is now traversed by the Canadian Pacific Railway. At a later period he travelled in India, where he acquired much valuable knowledge. In 1868, at the early age of twenty-seven, he was elected Member of Parliament for Mid-Lincolnshire; and in 1885, equipped with the varied experience of a busy public life, he was appointed Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. During the same year he was elected Member of Parliament for the Sleaford Division of Lincolnshire, and in 1889 he was appointed President of the newly established Board of Agriculture. But Mr CHAPLIN has attained distinction not only as a statesman and a valued minister of the Crown, but also as a high authority on the subject of agriculture. He has long taken a warm interest in the farming class of the community, and has devoted assiduous attention to questions affecting their welfare. It is specially worthy of mention that he was a prominent Member of the recent Royal Commissions on Agriculture and on the Currency, and that he is now a leading Member of the Royal Commission on Horse-breeding. In all these various offices he has rendered important service to his country.

As Mr CHAPLIN has been largely instrumental in directing

public attention to the great national importance of the scientific study of Agriculture and Rural Economy, the Chair of which in the University of Edinburgh has just attained its hundredth year, the University has deemed it fitting to invite so distinguished a promoter of that study to honour the occasion by accepting her Honorary Doctorate of Laws.

Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH, M.D. (Edin.) ;

HON. M.D. (ROYAL UNIV. OF IRELAND) ; HON. PHYSICIAN TO H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES ; MEMBER OF GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL ; PHYSICIAN AND LECTURER IN ST BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL ; TREASURER OF ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, &c.

SCION of an English family, but partly of Scottish extraction, Dr DUCKWORTH studied medicine in the University of Edinburgh under Professors Goodsir, Christison, Syme, Simpson, Balfour, and other eminent teachers, and graduated as M.D., with honours, and as Gold Medallist, in 1863. Among other high distinctions, he attained that of being a President of the Royal Medical Society, and during one year he was Resident Physician in the Royal Infirmary. He next studied in St Bartholomew's Hospital, London ; served for a time as Assistant Surgeon in the Royal Navy ; was appointed Tutor in St Bartholomew's Hospital School ; became a member of the Physicians' Staff at St Bartholomew's (being the first Edinburgh Graduate ever elected there), and is now Physician and Lecturer on Medicine in that important school. Dr DUCKWORTH has also held the appointments of Examiner in Medicine in the Universities of Edinburgh and Durham, and in the Victoria University. In 1886, as Chairman of the Building Committee of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of London, he received the honour of knighthood when H.M. the Queen laid the foundation of their new buildings on the Thames Embankment.

Besides numerous contributions to medical journals on clinical medicine and other subjects, Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH has written an instructive book on the "Works of the late Warburton Begbie," and he has recently published a very valuable and exhaustive "Treatise on Gout," the fruit of twelve years' observation and research.

To the University of Edinburgh also Sir DYCE has rendered many services. He was the original promoter of the Charles Murchison Scholarship, and generously devoted much time and energy to the collection of funds for the Goodsir, Falconer, Syme, and other Fellowships, for the University New Buildings, the Endowment Scheme, and the Students' Union ; he was one of the founders of the Edinburgh University Club of London ; and he has worthily represented the University in London and at Windsor on several public occasions. His *Alma Mater* has therefore begged him to accept her Honorary Doctorate of Laws in token of her sincere admiration and gratitude.

SIR JOHN FOWLER, Bart., C.E., &c.,

MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, AND OF VARIOUS OTHER
SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

BORN in 1817, and educated at first in the office of a hydraulic engineer, Mr FOWLER began his long and distinguished career by assisting at an early age in the construction of the London and Brighton Railway. His first great independent task, begun in 1843, was the construction of several railways around Sheffield, of which he was chief engineer, and within the next few years he constructed many other railways of greater importance. Foremost, however, among the vast undertakings of his earlier career was the engineering of the Metropolitan Railways of London, in 1853-64, a task beset with immense and innumerable difficulties, all of which, however, assisted latterly by Mr Baker, he triumphantly overcame. In 1866 he was elected President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, in which capacity he delivered a Presidential address of great scientific and educational value. In 1868 Mr FOWLER visited Egypt, where he inspected the Suez Canal, and the following year he was invited to join the party of the Prince and Princess of Wales in their voyage up the Nile. He afterwards had several interviews with the Khedive Ismail Pasha, and accepted from him the post of consulting engineer to the Egyptian Government. This office he held for eight years, visiting Egypt annually, and engineering all the great works undertaken by the enterprising Khedive. Unfortunately, however, the Soudân Railway, the greatest of all the works projected by him, had to be abandoned,

and his valuable advice on the all-important subject of irrigation was not carried out at the time. Mr FOWLER has also rendered valuable service to the Italian Government in the rectification of the Tiber, while at home he has been and is still connected with many of the chief engineering enterprises in Great Britain.

Greatest and most memorable of all the undertakings with which Mr FOWLER has been associated has been the construction of the Forth Bridge, the design of which emanated jointly from four of the most eminent railway-engineers in this country—Mr FOWLER and his partner Mr Benjamin Baker, Mr T. Harrison, and Mr W. H. Barlow. The execution of the work was entrusted by the Forth Bridge Company to Mr FOWLER and Mr Baker, who were ably assisted by Mr Alan Stewart, chief of the staff in their office; by Mr Cooper, the resident engineer; and by Mr (now Sir) William Arrol, the contractor, to whom was assigned the task of erecting the superstructure. After incessant toil of seven or eight years (1882-90), the great Bridge was successfully completed, and its deeply interesting history is recorded in a special number of *Engineering* (Feb. 1890). In this brief sketch it must suffice to say that it is a stupendous monument of the genius of its chief engineers, and that it justly attracts admiring and reverent pilgrims from every quarter of the globe.

In 1885 Mr FOWLER was created a K.C.M.G. for his important services in Egypt, and in 1890 he was promoted to a Baronetcy on the occasion of the opening of the Forth Bridge. In recognition of his pre-eminent services to the science of engineering, the University of Edinburgh now desires to add her cordial tribute by creating him one of her Honorary Doctors of Laws.

JAMES ANTHONY FROUDE, M.A., LL.D., &c.

AFTER having given early indications of genius in the University of Oxford, where he was elected a Fellow of Exeter College in 1842, Mr FROUDE was ordained a deacon in the Church of England in 1844, an office which his dissent from some of the Anglican doctrines induced him to resign in 1872. Earliest among his works was "Lives of the English Saints," belonging to his Anglican period. This, however, was followed by "Shadows and Clouds" in 1847, and the "Nemesis of Faith" in 1848, which show original and

independent thought. The severe condemnation of these works by the University of Oxford, combined with the manifest talent of their author, assured his literary fame. Resigning his Fellowship, he became a constant contributor to *Fraser's Magazine* and the *Westminster Review*; and at length in 1856-70 he wrote his great "History of England from the Fall of Wolsey to the Defeat of the Spanish Armada," founded upon contemporary documents, and remarkable for the boldness and originality of the author's views. Among the high merits of this admirable work may be mentioned the new light which it sheds on the personal characters of King Henry VIII. and Queen Elizabeth. In 1867 he republished his "Short Studies on Great Subjects," and a few years later he was for a short time editor of *Fraser's Magazine*. To his later works belong "The English in Ireland in the Eighteenth Century" (1871-74), "Cæsar, a Sketch" (1879), "Reminiscences" (1881), "Thomas Carlyle" (1882), and "Oceana" (1886). In 1869 Mr FROUDE was elected Rector of St Andrews University; in 1872 he lectured in the United States on the relations between Great Britain and Ireland; and in 1874 he was sent by the British Government on an important mission to the Cape of Good Hope to make inquiries as to the Kaffir insurrection.

Mr FROUDE'S works are characterised by wideness of research, originality and independence of thought, vividness of imagination, and beauty of style, and they have rendered inestimable service to general literature as well as to the science of history. In 1884 the illustrious author was invited to honour the Tercentenary Festival with his presence, and to receive the Honorary Doctorate in Laws; but as engagements at that time and ill-health afterwards have unfortunately prevented him from visiting Edinburgh, the University has resolved to confer the degree upon him in absence.

JOSEPH HENRY GILBERT, M.A., Ph.D., LL.D., F.R.S.,

SIBTHORPIAN PROFESSOR OF RURAL ECONOMY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD;
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CHEMICAL SOCIETY; CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE
INSTITUTE OF FRANCE; MEMBER OF VARIOUS OTHER LEARNED SOCIETIES.

EDUCATED at the University of Glasgow, at University College, London, and at Giessen, where he studied under the famous Liebig, and where he graduated as Doctor of Philosophy in 1840, Dr GILBERT began his scientific career as assistant to Professor

A. T. Thompson, at University College, London. He next proceeded to Manchester to study the chemistry of calico-printing ; and in 1843 he became associated with Mr (now Sir) J. B. Lawes, of Rothamsted, with whom he has since been indefatigably engaged in a most important series of researches in the domain of agricultural chemistry and physiology. The results of these researches have been given to the world from time to time in the "Transactions of the Royal Society," and in about a hundred scientific memoirs and pamphlets, most of them written by Dr GILBERT and Sir J. B. Lawes jointly, and several of them by the former alone. In 1884 he was appointed Sibthorpe Professor of Rural Economy in the University of Oxford, but he still retains the Rectorship of the Rothamsted Agricultural Laboratory, an institution over which he has so long and so worthily presided.

On agricultural chemistry and various other important subjects connected with rural economy, Professor GILBERT is one of the greatest authorities in Europe ; and as the Chair of Agriculture and Rural Economy in the University of Edinburgh has now attained its hundredth anniversary, the Senatus have invited the justly renowned Oxford Professor of that subject to honour the occasion by accepting the highest distinction they can confer upon him.

JAMES HARDY,

SECRETARY OF BERWICKSHIRE NATURALISTS' CLUB ; CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF GLASGOW, &c.

MEMBER of a most worthy Berwickshire family, Mr HARDY was educated at Oldcambus School, and in 1833 proceeded thence to the University of Edinburgh, where he followed the regular Arts curriculum during four sessions. He next devoted a session to the study of chemistry, mineralogy, botany, and natural history in the University of Glasgow, thus giving early indication of his scientific bent, and he afterwards taught himself geology, conchology, ornithology, and entomology. To Professor Sir W. J. Hooker he was indebted for an introduction to Dr Johnston of Berwick, which led to his early connection with the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club, then in its infancy. Having chosen teaching as a profession, Mr HARDY spent several years at Gateshead. Whilst there he joined the Literary and Philosophical and the Antiquarian

Societies of Newcastle, and at the same time devoted himself zealously to the practical study of natural history. When the Tyne-side Naturalists' Field Club was formed in 1847-48, Mr HARDY and a friend became members, and in 1848 began to publish under its auspices, with Mr HARDY as editor, a "Catalogue of the Insects of Northumberland and Durham," the new and accurate nomenclature of which entirely superseded that of the older English school. The Cheviot Hills were next explored by Mr HARDY, and it is worthy of note that there and elsewhere he discovered several new species of insects which now bear his name.

In 1863 Mr HARDY became a member of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club, to the proceedings of which he contributed the "Lichen Flora of the Eastern Borders," and their "Moss Flora," besides many other papers. He next devoted special attention to insects hurtful to agriculture, a subject on which he is still a high authority. Among other contributions to science, too numerous to be here detailed, Mr HARDY has written many papers on the botany of the Borders for the Transactions of the Berwickshire Club and for various scientific journals. He is an authority on the migration of birds, having been for a time a member of the Committee of the British Association on that subject, and he has also made many important archæological discoveries.

In 1872 Mr HARDY was appointed Joint-Secretary of the Berwickshire Club, and Editor of its Transactions; and in 1886 he became its sole Honorary Secretary; and during these eighteen years he may best be described as the life and soul of the Club. Suffice it to add that his able and valuable contributions to its Transactions, scattered throughout some thirteen volumes, and nearly two hundred in number, treat of a wide range of subjects,—archæological, historical, biographical, and scientific. Nor must it be omitted to state that his unwearying devotion to science has ever been a labour of love, and has set a noble example to many other investigators. His *Alma Mater* will therefore rejoice to inscribe his name on the roll of her most distinguished sons.

SIR JOHN KIRK, G.C.M.G., M.D. (Edin.), F.R.S., &c.

A NATIVE of Forfarshire, Sir JOHN KIRK was educated in the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated as M.D. with distinction in 1854. During the Crimean War he was a member of the

Civil Medical Staff, and from 1858 to 1864 he acted as Naturalist and one of the Chief Officers to Dr Livingstone's Zambesi Expedition. On the latter occasion he made a valuable natural history collection, which he described scientifically on his return home. After having for a time filled the post of Acting-Surgeon to the Political Agency at Zanzibar, he was promoted to be Vice-Consul of Zanzibar in 1873; and shortly afterwards he succeeded in inducing the Sultan, with whom he had gained great personal influence, to abolish the slave-trade within his dominions. In 1875 he accompanied the Sultan to England, and the same year he was appointed Consul of the Comoro Islands. In 1880 he was promoted to be Agent and Consul-General at Zanzibar, where amidst other duties he proved himself an admirable judge in the Consular Court; and since his recent resignation of office he has acted as the representative of the British Government at an important Conference on the Slave Trade held at Brussels. Sir JOHN is also an accomplished botanist and an Arabic scholar, and is conversant with several of the East African languages. For his distinguished diplomatic and political services he was successively created a C.M.G., a K.C.M.G., and a G.C.M.G.

Such in brief outline has been Sir JOHN KIRK's professional, scientific, and diplomatic career. He has shown himself to be at once a man of vigorous action, of sound judgment, and of high culture. But foremost among his public services is that of having been instrumental in suppressing the slave-trade in the greater part of Eastern Africa, while both by his own exertions and the aid he has afforded to others he has materially promoted geographical discovery in those regions of Africa with which he has been so prominently associated. Among many *alumni* of the University of Edinburgh who have distinguished themselves in various branches of the public service, it is worthy of remark that graduates in medicine occupy a foremost rank, and among these Sir JOHN KIRK is pre-eminently worthy of the highest honour which it is in the power of his *Alma Mater* to bestow.

GENERAL ROBERT MACLAGAN, R.E.,

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC, THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL, AND OTHER
LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GENERAL MACLAGAN received his early education at the High School and the University of Edinburgh, after which he studied at Addiscombe, passing thence into the Royal Engineers with the

highest distinction in every department. His long and honourable Indian career began in 1842 as an officer of Sappers and Miners, and for several years he was actively engaged as a constructor of roads, a surveyor of canals and forests, and a military engineer. In 1847 he was appointed first Principal of the College for Civil Engineers at Roorkee (called the Thomason College after its Founder), a post which, with an interval of furlough, he filled with conspicuous success till 1860. In 1857 he aided in suppressing the Mutiny in the neighbourhood of Roorkee, an important service which was specially acknowledged by the Indian Government and H.M. Secretary of State. In 1860 he was appointed Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Punjab Government in the Public Works Department, and this highly responsible office he held until his retirement from the service in 1879. Shortly before he left India the "Maclagan Prize" in the Punjab University was founded by Natives of India in his honour, and on that occasion the numerous subscribers expressed their high esteem and cordial regard for him as a benefactor of their countrymen. By the European residents also he was deservedly respected and beloved.

As a man of science and letters also, notwithstanding the exacting nature of his official duties, General MACLAGAN has manifested abilities of a very high order, combined with remarkable versatility. From the year 1848 down to the present day he has been a frequent and valued contributor to many different periodicals on a wide range of different subjects, such as the History of Mooltan from Persian MSS., Early Asiatic Fire-arms, the Building Arts of India, the Spelling of Indian Names, and many biographical memoirs; and he has contributed several geographical and other articles to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and to the transactions of the British Association. Alike distinguished as a man of action, an educationist, a man of science and letters, and an earnest promoter of the moral and religious welfare of India, General MACLAGAN is an old *alumnus* of whom the University of Edinburgh is most justly proud.

JOHN MARSHALL, M.A. (Edin. & Oxon.),

BARRISTER-AT-LAW, RECTOR OF THE ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL, EDINBURGH.

AFTER having received his early training, both as a student and a teacher, at Moray House, Edinburgh, Mr MARSHALL studied in the University of Edinburgh, where he attained the highest dis-

tion as a student of Classics, Mathematics, and Philosophy, and where he graduated in 1869 as the first classical graduate of his year. Having shortly afterwards gained the Ferguson Classical Scholarship, which is open to all Scotland, he proceeded to Balliol College, Oxford, where with almost unprecedented rapidity he graduated with first-class Classical Honours in 1872. Among the important appointments he has held are those of Classical Examiner in the University of Edinburgh; Lecturer on Ancient Philosophy and History in Balliol College, Oxford; and Professor of Ancient Literature in Yorkshire College, Leeds, of which for a time he discharged the duties of Principal. In 1882 he was appointed Rector of the Royal High School of Edinburgh, in which capacity, as well as in that of chief organiser and twice President of the Secondary Schoolmasters' Association, and in that of a Governor of Heriot-Watt College, he has rendered excellent service to the cause of education. In the midst of an unusually busy life Mr MARSHALL has found time for valuable literary work. He has edited Xenophon's *Anabasis* (Books I. and III.) and has just completed the *Memorabilia* for the Oxford University Press, and he is at present engaged in writing a short History of Greek Philosophy. Not only as a scholar and a teacher, but also as a lecturer and essayist on Fine Art, Economics, and other subjects, Mr MARSHALL has proved himself a most worthy *alumnus* of this University.

**THE RIGHT HON. JAMES PATRICK BANNERMAN
ROBERTSON, M.A., M.P., Q.C., Lord Advocate.**

Mr ROBERTSON, who, like so many other eminent members of the Scottish Bar, is a most worthy scion of the Manse, received his early education at the Royal High School of Edinburgh, where he showed his ability and industry by attaining the proud position of Dux of the School. Proceeding thence to the University of Edinburgh, he graduated in Arts in 1864, and afterwards attended the Law Lectures in that University, devoting his time and attention chiefly to historical and legal study. To those who had the privilege of meeting him at that period, whether in the lecture-room or the debating society, it was apparent that he possessed very exceptional abilities and remarkable oratorical powers. Called to the Scottish

Bar in 1867, his admirable equipment for his profession soon yielded him the success he so well deserved, and at a comparatively early age he became one of the acknowledged leaders of the Bar. After having held the office of Solicitor-General for Scotland in 1885, when he was also nominated Queen's Counsel, and having been re-appointed to that office in 1886, he was promoted to the high office of Lord Advocate in 1888, and sworn of the Privy Council the same year. In these various capacities, as well as in that of Member of Parliament for Bute, for which he was returned in 1885, Mr ROBERTSON has earned general admiration and esteem.

Not only is the LORD ADVOCATE a distinguished counsel and statesman, but the Universities of Scotland in particular owe him a great debt of gratitude for the masterly skill which he exhibited in the introduction and in the passing of the recent Universities (Scotland) Act, which will, it is confidently hoped, inaugurate a new and more prosperous era in the history of Scottish University education. On these grounds his *Alma Mater* heartily rejoices to enrol him among her Honorary Doctors of Law.

FREDERIC SEEBOHM, F.S.A., J.P.,

BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

AFTER having received his early education at the Friends' School at York, Mr SEEBOHM was called to the English Bar in 1856, and shortly afterwards became a partner in a banking firm at Hitchin. During the intervals of business Mr SEEBOHM has for many years occupied himself with historical research of a most important and interesting character. The work on which his high reputation as an author chiefly rests is his "English Village Community" (3rd edition, 1884), a monument of erudite research and original thought, and an almost unique contribution to the subject of English Economic History, alike invaluable to the political economist and the constitutional historian. Among other merits of this work may be mentioned the aid which it affords towards a solution of the question whether the masses of the English people were originally freemen or serfs, and the light which it throws on the origin of the ancient manor. Another important exploration of a comparatively untrodden region of history is Mr SEEBOHM'S "Era of the Protestant Revolution," published in

1874 (new edition, 1887), in which he describes the state of Christendom at that period, in its economic as well as in its religious aspects, and the general need for reform. In vivid and powerful language the author traces the revival of learning throughout Europe, the secession of England and other countries from Rome, and the economic results of the Reformation, and shows how the commercial enterprise of the period led to the vast expansion of Great Britain through her colonies. To a somewhat different category belongs Mr SEEBOHM'S "Oxford Reformers," published in 1867 (3rd edition, 1887), a work of great historical value, which likewise exhibits extensive research and accurate scholarship. To his special province of historic-economic research belongs also a series of valuable articles contributed to the *North British Review*, the *Fortnightly*, the *Edinburgh*, the *Contemporary*, the *Spectator*, and the *Nineteenth Century*; and it is hoped that he may yet be induced to write a complete economic history of England. To history, to economics, and to legal lore, Mr SEEBOHM has thus rendered admirable service, and his works mark a new epoch in the study of the early social, political, and religious conditions of the English people.

CHARLES PIAZZI SMYTH,

F.R.A.S.; F.R.S.E.; F.R.S.S.A.; FOR A TIME F.R.S.; LATE ASTRONOMER-ROYAL FOR SCOTLAND; EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF PRACTICAL ASTRONOMY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH; HON. MEMBER OF THE ROYAL ACADEMIES OF MUNICH, PALERMO, AND MODENA, AND OF VARIOUS OTHER LEARNED SOCIETIES.

MR PIAZZI SMYTH began his career as an Astronomer in 1835 at the Royal Observatory, Cape of Good Hope, under Mr (afterwards Sir) Thomas Maclear, where he executed a series of valuable telescopic drawings of Halley's comet, which were engraved by the Royal Astronomical Society of London. During the next nine years the frequent scientific correspondence between the observatories of the Cape and of Edinburgh, where Mr Thomas Henderson was the first Astronomer-Royal, afforded Mr SMYTH an excellent training; and on Mr Henderson's death in 1845 Mr SMYTH was appointed his successor. An almost herculean task now awaited him. He found the last five years' observations of his overworked predecessor still uncompleted and unprinted, and with admirable self-abnegation he devoted the first five years of his Scottish service to completing and publishing these observations,

which occupy the 6th-10th volumes of the Edinburgh Observatory Series. With the aid of his Assistant, the late Mr Alexander Wallace, he next devoted himself to his own observations, and attempted to carry on a Class of Practical Astronomy in the University, to which work was afterwards added the daily time-ball service on the Nelson Monument; while with the aid of a second Assistant he continued to issue his volumes of star-place observations. In 1856 he visited the Peak of Teneriffe, and for several months was assiduously engaged in "Mountain Astronomy" at an altitude far above the ordinary cloud-level. In 1858, to his regular duties, Government added that of computing the Scottish Meteorological Society's bi-diurnal observations at fifty-five different stations, and in 1860 he undertook the control of the daily time-gun in Edinburgh Castle.

In 1864 Professor SMYTH visited Egypt, with a view to the scientific examination of the Great Pyramid, a self-imposed task, the striking results of which formed the subject of a work published in 1867 and of a number of memoirs and public lectures. In 1868 he published another interesting work "On the Antiquity of Intellectual Man," while a third most important and ingenious work, entitled "Our Inheritance in the Great Pyramid," has reached its fifth edition within the last few weeks. By the last-named book a new branch of study has been inaugurated, and is now enthusiastically prosecuted by a special society in America.

In deference to the wishes of the scientific world, he next proceeded in 1872 to prepare a Catalogue of all the Edinburgh Observations from the beginning of the Observatory's career. Of these he published the first four hours in 1877, and the remaining twenty hours in 1886. Pending negotiations for his proposed resignation of office after his unwearied services of forty years, he busied himself with clearing off all arrears of work, and with the generous aid of the Royal Society of Edinburgh he succeeded in completing the Meteorological Returns of the country. But the far larger spectroscopic volume required to complete the series of his observations, which in 1887 H.M. Stationery Office declined to publish, he has now, with his indomitable energy and devotion to duty, resolved to publish at his own cost.

All honour to the illustrious scholar who is thus nobly devoting the evening of his long and arduous career to the service of his sublime science!

SPENCER WALPOLE,

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF THE ISLE OF MAN ; CHAIRMAN OF THE WESTERN
ISLANDS AND HIGHLANDS COMMISSION, &c.

SON of the Right Hon. Spencer Horatio Walpole, the eminent advocate and statesman, Mr WALPOLE was educated at Eton, and at an early age entered the War Office. He successively acted as Private Secretary to the Right Hon. T. S. Estcourt and to his own father, and thus gained the political and administrative experience which so admirably qualified him for the important public offices he has since held. In 1867 he was appointed one of H.M. Inspectors of Fisheries, a subject on which he ranks among the highest authorities, and in connection with which he was soon brought into close relations with Scotland. In 1882 he was nominated Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Man, where he has since held beneficent sway ; and he has lately been appointed Chairman of the Western Islands and Highlands Commission, an office which has carried him into some of the wildest and remotest regions of Scotland, and which is likely to be fraught with the most auspicious results.

Important as his public services have been, Mr WALPOLE'S contributions to historical and political science have been still more noteworthy. Not only has he been a frequent contributor to periodical literature, but he has written several historical and other works of great permanent value. In 1873 he published a "Life of the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval" ; in 1881, the "Electorate and the Legislature" (a most useful little volume in the "English Citizen" series) ; in 1882, "Foreign Relations" ; in 1878-86, his "History of England from the Conclusion of the Great War in 1815" ; and in 1889, a "Life of Lord John Russell." All these works are conspicuous for accuracy of research, fairness of statement, and lucidity of style, and his "History of England," in particular, justly holds the foremost rank among histories treating of the present century. The University of Edinburgh accordingly deems it a high privilege to enrol his name among her Honorary Doctors of Laws.

